

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Nez Perce NF

Rt. 2, Box 475
Grangeville, ID 83530

Reply to: 1920
FP Amendment #8

Date: January 2, ~~1989~~ 1990

Dear Forest Planning Participant:

During the past year the Forest's Interdisciplinary Monitoring & Evaluation Team identified some items in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements Appendix that need correction or clarification.

These items focus on fish and wildlife monitoring. Specifically, the changes relate to forage production, wildlife population trends, and fisheries & watershed monitoring station costs.

Also attached is a Designation Order for the establishment of the Warm Springs Research Natural Area on our Red River Ranger District. This area was one of seven areas recommended as Research Natural Areas in the Forest Plan.

The objective for the Warm Springs RNA is to preserve in an undisturbed condition the warm springs and its associated forest and aquatic types found in the RNA. Serving as a reference area for study, the Warm Springs RNA will function as a baseline area for determining long-term ecological changes, and as a monitoring area to determine effects of techniques and practices applied to similar ecosystems.

The attached Decision Notice and Forest Plan Amendment addresses these items.

The Decision Memo and Forest Plan Amendment covering the above changes are enclosed. Please attach the amendment to your copy of the Nez Perce Forest Plan.



TOM KOVALICKY
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

Decision Memo
Forest Plan Amendment No. 8
Nez Perce National Forest
Idaho County, Idaho

The purpose of Forest Plan Amendment No. 8 is to clarify language in Appendix O (Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements).

During this past year the Forest's Interdisciplinary Monitoring & Evaluation Team identified some items in the Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements Appendix that need correction or clarification.

These items focus on fish and wildlife monitoring. Specifically, the changes relate to forage production, wildlife population trends, and fisheries & watershed monitoring station costs.

The corrections made in this Forest Plan amendment provide clarification that will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives as identified in the Forest Plan.

Forest Service policy permits Forest Plan amendments resulting from analysis conducted during Forest Plan implementation (36 CFR 219.10(f) and FSM 1922.5). Amendments are also permitted when the Forest interdisciplinary team recommends changes resulting from monitoring and evaluating Forest Plan implementation (FSM 1922.5, 36 CFR 219.12(k) and FSM 1922.7).

I have determined the proposed changes are not significant since they are minor changes in standards and guidelines and will not alter the multiple-use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.

Adoption of this amendment will not significantly change the forestwide environmental impacts disclosed in the Nez Perce Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This amendment is categorically excluded from further documentation in an EIS or EA (FSM 1950 Interim Directive No. 16 and FSH 1909.15 Interim Directive No. 2)

Additional information can be obtained from:

Joe Bednorz, Staff Officer
Land Management Planning
Nez Perce National Forest
Route 2, Box 475
Grangeville, Idaho 83530

(208) 983-1950

Implementation of this decision will begin immediately. This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217.8 and 36 CFR 217.9. Notice of appeal must be in writing and submitted within 45 days of this decision to:

John W. Mumma, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 7669
Missoula, Montana 59807

A copy of the notice of appeal must be sent to:

Tom Kovalicky, Forest Supervisor
Nez Perce National Forest
Rt. 2, Box 475
Grangeville, Idaho 83530


TOM KOVALICKY
Forest Supervisor

January 2, 1989/1990
Date

Nez Perce National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan

Amendment No. 8
January 1989

Forest Plan, Appendix O, Page O-2

Items 1c and 10, Replace the second paragraph with the following:

Tracking of forage production forestwide will be done by annual evaluation of accomplished forage producing actions including timber harvest, prescription burns, and wildfires. Trends in production based on 5 years of data will be the measure, rather than annual production.

Forest Plan, Appendix O, Page O-3

Items 1d and 10, Replace the second paragraph with the following:

Population data will be collected annually. Pileated woodpecker population trends will be evaluated using an index of relative abundance. An attempt to obtain indices to furbearer populations (fisher, marten) will be made by establishing track-transects or scent-post lines. Population monitoring of goshawks, pine marten, and fishers will be done using active nest monitoring and track counts.

Forest Plan, Appendix O, Page O-9

Item 2e, Table O-2

The figure for three remote stations for the Elk City Ranger District (D-8) under "Estimated Annual Budget" should have been \$2,400, not \$4,400. The Total would then be \$32,600 instead of \$34,600.

Districts indicated that cost estimates for fisheries monitoring in the Plan were not adequate to cover needs. The following corrections in monitoring costs have been proposed:

Standard station costs increased from \$1,200 to \$1,400.

Remote station costs increased from \$2,000 to \$2,400.

Table O-2 -- Monitoring Costs (2e), By District

District	Estimated Number of Stations	Type	Estimated Annual Budget	Actual FY 1988 Budget Needed
Salmon River (D-1)	4	standard	\$4,800	\$5,600
Clearwater D-4	2	standard	\$2,400	\$2,800
Red River D-5	5 1	standard Element 2	\$6,000 \$3,000	\$7,000 \$3,000
Moose Creek D-6	2	remote	\$3,200	\$4,800
Selway D-7	3	standard	\$3,600	\$4,200
Elk City D-8	6 3	standard remote	\$7,200 \$2,400	\$8,400 \$2,400 2/
TOTAL	26		\$32,600	\$38,200

1/ All three stations are in the same area, so no cost increase.

Item 2h, Cost

The original annual estimate for the water monitoring program was \$55,000. This has been increased to \$64,000 in order to accommodate additional tasks which were not considered as cost increases in the original estimate.

Item 2h, Table O-3

Delete Upper South Fork Red River and West Fork Red River from the list of potential stations.

It was decided that the Upper South Fork and West Fork of Red River gaging stations would not be installed. These stations were originally envisioned as a paired watershed study involving an undisturbed (West Fork) and disturbed (South Fork) watershed. A detailed channel and substrate survey was conducted in cooperation with the Intermountain Research Station in 1988. Data are still being analyzed. This study will provide documentation of the conditions in both channels. The survey demonstrated that the channels in question were not as closely paired in characteristics as originally thought. Additionally, the West Fork is scheduled for development activity in 1990, which leaves minimal time for pretreatment calibration. For these reasons, it was recommended that the gaging stations not be installed.

*** End of Amendment ***

DESIGNATION ORDER

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Secretary of Agriculture under regulations 7 CFR 2.42 and 36 CFR 251.23, this is my Designation Order to establish the Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area. The Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area shall be comprised of lands described in the section of the Establishment Record entitled "Location."

Regional Forester James C. Overbay recommended the establishment of the Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area in the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan dated October 8, 1987, which is incorporated into this document by reference. That recommendation was the result of an analysis of the factors listed in 36 CFR 219.25 and Forest Service Manual 4063.41. The results of the Regional Forester's analysis are documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and the Establishment Record for the Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area which are available to the public.

The Warm Spring Creek Research Natural Area will be managed in compliance with all relevant laws, regulations, and Manual direction regarding Research Natural Areas. The Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area will be administered in accordance with the management direction identified in the Establishment Record. The Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is hereby amended to be consistent with the management direction identified in the Establishment Record and this Designation Order. This direction will remain in effect unless amended pursuant to 36 CFR 219.10. This is a non-significant amendment of the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Based on the Environmental Analysis documented in the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the Environmental Impact Statement, and the Establishment Record, I find that designation of the Warm Springs Creek Research Natural Area is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The Forest Supervisor of the Nez Perce National Forest shall notify the public of this amendment and will mail a copy of the Designation Order and amended direction to all persons on the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan mailing list.



Chief

August 17, 1989
Date